Please add the following abstract into the application:

--Providing methods and systems for a computer-aided group-learning environment, where a number of users can interact and work on a subject together. The system and method can monitor and analyze users' inputs. The analysis process can identify a user's performance on the subject, and can understand some of the user's traits, such as confidence level and learning attitude. The system can include an interaction controller, which sets a duration of time for the users to communicate in a dialogue environment. Working on the subject in a group and working alone can be intertwined. For example, the users first work on the materials generated individually, and then solve the problem together in a dialogue environment. During the dialogue session, the interaction controller can provide hints to the users. The system can also include a user registry, which restricts the users who can use the embodiment to work on the subject. The registry can receive potential user's characteristics to determine whether such user may be allowed to join the existing users to work on the subject. The registry can also access a summarized profile of the existing users to help the potential user make joining decisions. The system can also include a notepad for a user to take notes. The interaction controller can also guide the user to take notes.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1 through 62, and add claims 63 through 82 as follows:

63. A computer-aided group-learning method for more than one user to work on a subject, the method comprising the steps of:

setting a duration of time for users to communicate in a dialogue session so as to allow the users to work on materials on the subject; and

monitoring at least one user's inputs during the dialogue session so as to have the monitored inputs available for analysis for guiding at least one user back to the subject in the dialogue session when one or more users have been distracted from the subject;

such that the dialogue session provides an interactive environment to help the users learn.

64. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in Claim 63 wherein the materials for at least one user to work on are tailored to that user based on monitored inputs.

65. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 further comprising the step of responding to a user's natural-language question.

66. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 further comprising the step of restricting one user from communicating with at least one other user.

67. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 wherein the analysis includes analyzing the relevancy of the user's inputs.

68. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 wherein the analysis is also for generating a profile of one or more users.

69. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 further comprising the step of restricting one or more users who can work on the subject.

70. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 69 wherein the restriction is on limiting a user to observing but not interacting in the dialogue session.

71. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 further comprising the step of restricting a potential user from learning the subject with the more than one users based on information related to the potential user.

72. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 further comprising the step of retrieving information related to one or more users for a potential user to decide on learning the subject with the one or more users.

11

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73. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 further comprising the step of guiding the user to take notes on the subject so as to help the user learn the subject;

wherein the guidance is related to the subject.

12

74. A computer-aided group-learning method as recited in claim 63 wherein:

the users communicate in a mode of communication; and

the mode of communication can be selected from a unicast, multicast and broadcast mode.

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75. A computer-aided group-learning system for more than one user to work on a subject, the system comprising:

a controller configured to set a duration of time for users to communicate in a dialogue session so as to allow the users to work on materials on the subject; and

a monitoring apparatus configured to monitor at least one user's inputs to the system during the dialogue session so as to have the monitored inputs available for analysis for guiding at least one user back to the subject in the dialogue session when one or more users have been distracted from the subject;

such that the dialogue session provides an interactive environment to help the users learn.

76. A computer-aided learning system comprising:

a notepad configured for a user to take notes while working on a subject through the system; and

a controller configured to monitor the user's inputs to guide the user to take notes on the subject so as to help the user learn that subject;

wherein the guidance is related to the subject.

15

77. A computer-aided learning system as recited in claim 76 wherein the guidance is presented in the notepad.

14